

REMARKS

Preliminarily, Applicants again respectfully request the Examiner to make JP 61-33848 and the English Abstract of corresponding JP 55-029519 of record as submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement filed July 17, 2006 and available in PAIR under a mailroom date of 07-17-2006 (foreign reference). In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion in the telephone conference of October 24, 2008, the undersigned respectfully requests the Examiner to list JP 61-33848 on Form PTO-892. Alternatively, Form SB-08 listing this reference is attached for the Examiner's convenience.

New claim 13 finds support at page 27, lines 23-30 of the specification.

Review and reconsideration on the merits are requested.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 95033782 A1 to Araki et al in view of Araki et al (WO 95-08598 A) in reference to its English language equivalent (US 5,925,700).

Applicants traverse, and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider for the following reasons.

The dispersion of claim 1 contains a tetrafluoroethylene polymer particle and has a fluorine-containing surfactant content of not higher than 1000 ppm by mass, the tetrafluoroethylene polymer having a tetrafluoroethylene unit content exceeding 40 mole percent.

Since the dispersion of claim 1 is obtained by carrying out a tetrafluoroethylene polymerization in the presence of the claimed fluorovinyl group-containing emulsifier, the rate of the polymerization reaction is very rapid. Therefore, the proportions of the unreacted monomer(s) and oligomers occurring in the aqueous dispersion thus obtained are very small and the residual amount of the fluorovinyl group-containing compound therein is also very small.

Thus, the TFE polymer aqueous dispersion of the invention has a low content of the above-mentioned fluorine-containing surfactants. See page 28, line 17 to page 29, line 24 of the specification.

JP '782 discloses a functional group-containing fluoroolefin. However, JP '782 does not disclose a tetrafluoroethylene polymer aqueous dispersion having a fluorine-containing surfactant content of not higher than 1000 ppm by mass.

WO '598 discloses a vinylidene fluoride polymer dispersion having not more than 1 wt% (=10000 ppm) of a fluorine-containing surfactant. The dispersion can be obtained by adding a nonionic non-fluorine-containing surfactant.

The functional group-containing fluoroolefin is different from PFOA. Therefore, it is not at all obvious to use the amount of fluorine-containing surfactant of WO '598 in the dispersion of JP '782.

Furthermore, two cited references do not teach or suggest the advantage of the claimed surfactant. Therefore, even if WO '598 and JP '782 are combined, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be led to the tetrafluoroethylene dispersion having such a low surfactant content of not higher than 1000 ppm as claimed.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims are patentable over the cited prior art, and withdrawal of the foregoing rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of claims 1, 3-8, 11, 12 and 13 is earnestly solicited.


AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No.: 10/576,450

Attorney Docket No.: Q94064

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may be helpful to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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